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NOTES AND NEWS

THE tenacity of the argument from design is illustrated by the recent book by Alfred Russel Wallace, "The World of Life." The sub-title of the volume is "A Manifestation of Creative Power, Directive Mind, and Ultimate Purpose," and the author's object is, if possible, to discover proofs of this in nature. With this in view he begins with a detailed account of the distribution of plants and animals in the world, and as shown in past ages by the geological record. He believes that the surface changes of the earth form the motive power of organic evolution, the guiding force of which is natural selection acting by means of the laws of heredity, variation, and increase, and the consequent survival of the fittest. But Dr. Wallace's convictions enable him to carry the analysis a step further back: "If then all life development—all organic forces—are due to mind action, we must postulate not only forces, but guidance; not only such self-acting agencies as are involved in natural selection and adaptation through survival of the fittest, but that far higher mentality which foresees all possible results of the constitution of our cosmos." Again, referring to the adaptations between life and the physical laws of the solar system which render life possible, and after expressing his belief that on no other planet than the earth can the development of organic life take place, he says: "These afford, in my opinion, an exceedingly powerful argument for an over-ruling Mind, which so ordered the forces at work in the material universe as to render the almost infinitely im-

probable sequence of events to which I have called attention an actual reality."—*The Athenæum*.

At the meeting of the Aristotelian Society on December 5 Mr. Bernard Bosanquet read a paper on "A Defect in the Customary Logical Formulation of Inductive Reasoning." The point of departure for the argument was a sentence from M. Bergson: "L'intelligence a pour fonction essentielle de lier le même au même, et il n'y a entièrement adaptable aux cadres de l'intelligence que les faits qui se repètent." Contending that this account of the intelligence is false, and pointing out its origin in M. Tarde and the imitation and repetition theorists, the writer nevertheless admitted and maintained that the customary account of induction does much to support it, by restricting itself to eliminative tests founded on the abstract principle of identity, much as M. Bergson states it. The true mainspring of inductive thought, he further contended, is the power of a universal, or of a continuity of principle in new, but kindred matter, binding different to different. This point tends to drop out of logical theory, because it can not be reduced to formal method. The writer laid stress on an illustration drawn from the reciprocal modification of the principles of preformation and epigenesis in recent embryology (Driesch and Jenkinson). He further pointed out that the opinion he supports is opposed to the purely exhaustive doctrine of inductive proof and to a common conception of inductive generalization or universality, which really lies in the comprehension of a system of knowledge, and not in numbers of instances. This view of the goal of induction further affects the truth of partial truths, which are here treated as partially false, in harmony with a doctrine of Plato compared with an argument of Mr. F. H. Bradley.—*The Athenæum*.

THE American Psychological Association held its nineteenth annual meeting at Minneapolis on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 28, 29, and 30, 1910, in affiliation with the Western Philosophical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The program occupied two days and a half. The department of philosophy and psychology of the University of Minnesota entertained the members of the association at two smokers given jointly to the two associations under its care, one after the address of the president of the Western Philosophical Association, Professor E. B. McGilvary, of the University of Wisconsin, and the other after the address of the president of the American Psychological Association, Professor Walter B. Pillsbury, of the University of Michigan, on "The Place of Movement in Consciousness." At the business meeting on Friday morning the following officers were elected: president, Professor C. E. Seashore, of the University of Iowa; secretary-treasurer, Professor W. V. D. Bingham, of Dartmouth College; members of the council, to serve for three years, Professor A. H. Pierce, of Smith College, and Professor H. C. Warren, of Princeton University. It was voted to meet next year in Washington, unless unforeseen circumstances arise to make this inadvisable.

THE first number has appeared of the series of Italian philosophical

classics, the publication of which was noted at the meeting of the Italian Philosophical Society held at Rome in 1909. It is Volume I. of the works of Bernardino Telesio; this writer's other works will fill probably three more volumes which are expected to appear at intervals of about six months. The editor of the series, Felice Tocco, calls attention to the absence of satisfactory texts of the Italian philosophy of the Renaissance, and to the importance of the present undertaking. The volumes are offered at the rate of L. 5.50 each, and L. 7.50 for binding in parchment. If the undertaking is justified by its support, the works of Telesio will be followed by those of Campanella. The present volume is an excellent piece of book-making, and the appearance of it suggests an inquiry as to the fate of a similar enterprise in behalf of early American philosophy which has been undertaken by our own Philosophical Association.

IN the *Revue générale des sciences* for October 15 and 30 Professor Marinesco, of the University of Bucharest, has given an interesting summary of recent investigations upon the anatomical localization of the human cerebral cortex, and more especially of the distinctive cytological characters of each of the multitude of areas into which the pallium of the brain can now be subdivided. His descriptions are elucidated by a series of twenty-seven drawings exhibiting a wealth of intricate detail. The articles are essentially a digest of the work accomplished by others, and especially of the classical researches of Oskar and Cecilie Vogt and Karl Brodmann. Although Professor Marinesco's citations of the results and the opinions expressed by other anatomists are not always exact, on the whole his summary will be useful to those who are unable to find time to read the voluminous literature upon which it is based.—*Nature*.

THE meeting of the New York Branch of the American Psychological Association will take place on Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4. The scientific sessions will be held in the psychological laboratory of Columbia University, and a dinner and smoker will be held on Friday evening at the Faculty Club of the University. In view of the fact that many eastern members of the association were unable to attend the national meeting, it seems possible that the winter meeting of the New York Branch may appeal to a wider constituency than usual. All members, and others interested, are cordially invited to attend this meeting. Among those who have signified their intention of being present from a considerable distance are Professors Angell, Jastrow, Judd, and Pillsbury. It is probable that some papers will be presented in memory of William James.

AT the Minneapolis meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Charles E. Bessey, professor of botany and dean at the University of Nebraska, was elected president for the meeting to be held at Washington, beginning on December 27, 1911. It is planned to hold the meeting of 1912 at Cleveland. The meeting of the association and of the affiliated societies at Minneapolis was in every way successful. The registration of members of the association was 663, which represents an attendance of scientific men about twice as large.